

For Immediate Release
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## **Solar Workshops Offered for Ventura Residents**

Workshop 1: June 12th 5:30 pm Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003 Workshop 2: July 11th 5:30 pm City Hall Community Meeting Room, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001

The City of Ventura and the Community Environmental Council (CEC) have launched the 2019 Solarize Ventura Program. This program includes new energy storage systems and options for survivors of the Thomas Fire that are working to rebuild.

The Solarize Ventura 2019 program is designed to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to go solar. This year, the program has selected Coastal Solar as their installer partner, who will offer discounted prices through July 31, 2019.

The program will offer energy storage equipment and education on energy storage for the first time. Storage systems will be available to new solar customers and to existing solar customers who wish to upgrade their systems to include storage.

Southern California Edison's new "time-of-use" pricing structures benefit solar customers. Under these new rates, many solar customers will benefit by utilizing solar energy stored during the day for peak evening hours, avoiding the need to buy electricity from the grid at the most expensive time, from 4pm - 9pm. Having a battery backup can also give solar customers power in their homes during power outages.

The program seeks to assist residents who are rebuilding from the Thomas Fire. Nancy O'Rode is an Ondulando neighborhood resident who lost her home during the Thomas fire and served on the volunteer committee to select the solar contractor. O'Rode explained, "As we rebuild, we are happy to have support from the City in considering options for solar energy. There are so many decisions that we need to make; I hope that the educational workshops and discounted pricing from Solarize Ventura will make a few decisions easier for our community."

Residents who lost homes in the Thomas Fire are invited to participate in the Solarize Program regardless of the progress of their rebuild. Solarize Ventura will offer community workshops focused on the benefits and details associated with going solar. Workshops will cover solar billing rates, equipment, warrantees, financing, and tax credits. A solar coach will also be available to discuss questions as needed.

The workshops are offered at no cost and are open to the public. A reservation is not required. To learn more visit <u>SolarizeVentura.org</u> or call the Community Environmental Council at (805) 963-0583 x101.